

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 20334 01 OF 02 241617Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5992

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 20334

NODIS

FOR CHRISTOPHER FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: CVIS, PINT, UR, US
SUBJECT: SIT-INS IN EMBASSY MOSCOW

REF: (A) MOSCOW 19913, (B) STATE 211430

1. ALTHOUGH SOKOLOV, ACTING CHIEF USA DIVISION IN THE MFA, ON MONDAY SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING A MEETING BETWEEN THE PENTECOSTALISTS AND THE ALL-UNION OVIR, HE HAS NOT YET RESPONDED. MOREOVER, AS REPORTED EARLIER, THE PENTECOSTALISTS THIS WEEK RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THEIR FAMILY DESCRIBING THE SITUATION IN CHERNOGORSK WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE RESTORED THEIR RESOLVE NOT TO LEAVE THE EMBASSY VOLUNTARILY. THIS EFFECTIVELY UNDERMINED THE EFFORTS AT PERSUASION BY THE AMERICAN CHAPLAIN AS WELL.

2. ASSUMING WE GET NO RESPONSE FROM SOKOLOV, I RECOMMEND THAT SOME TIME DURING THE COMING WEEKEND WE TAKE THE NEXT STEP AS FOLLOWS:

A. I WOULD HAVE AN OFFICER READ THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE PENTECOSTALISTS: "THE AMBASSADOR HAS
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ASKED ME TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE TO YOU: YOU ARE VERY WELL AWARE THAT I DEEPLY SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR PLIGHT, HAVE PERSONALLY INTERVENED ON YOUR BEHALF WITH HIGHER SOVIET AUTHORITIES, AND HAVE DIRECTED THAT YOU BE PROVIDED SUCH AMENITIES AS POSSIBLE, GIVEN OUR VERY LIMITED FACILITIES IN THE EMBASSY. YOU ARE ALSO AWARE THAT I BELIEVE

YOU ARE MISTAKEN IN BELIEVING THAT TAKING REFUGE IN THE EMBASSY WILL ADVANCE YOUR OBJECTIVES.

"IN FACT YOUR CONTINUED STAY IN THE EMBASSY, RATHER THAN SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE, APPEARS TO HAVE INCREASINGLY NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR YOURSELVES, YOUR FELLOW PENTECOSTALISTS THROUGHOUT THE SOVIET UNION AND EMBASSY PERSONNEL. YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT YOU ARE ALSO DISRUPTING THE NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE EMBASSY AND MAKING MORE DIFFICULT THE EMBASSY'S TASK OF ASSISTING OTHERS WHO ALSO NEED AND DESERVE OUR HELP.

"YOUR CONTINUED STAY IN THE EMBASSY CAN SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE; IT CAN ONLY BE HARMFUL. YOU WILL THEREFORE LEAVE WITHOUT DELAY. I ASSURE YOU THAT AFTER YOUR DEPARTURE THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO ASSIST IN YOUR DESIRE TO EMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES. WE WILL KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOUR CASE AND I ASK THAT YOU TELEPHONE OUR CONSUL WITH A REPORT ON YOUR SITUATION AT ANY TIME YOU ARE ABLE AND WISH TO DO SO. OUR PRAYERS GO WITH YOU.

"THAT IS THE MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR. PLEASE GATHER YOUR THINGS AND I WILL ESCORT YOU TO THE GATE."

B. WE WOULD TRY TO INCLUDE THE ARMENIAN WOMAN AND CONFIDENTIAL

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HER CHILDREN IN THE DEPARTURE.

C. I WOULD ARRANGE FOR SOME MARINES TO BE SEEN IN THE BACKGROUND, BUT NOT TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PROCEEDINGS.

D. A FEW HOURS BEFORE TAKING THIS STEP, WE WOULD TRY TO INFORM THE MFA THAT WE BELIEVED THE GROUP WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE AND REQUEST THAT THEY BE TREATED HUMANELY UPON DEPARTURE AND THAT IF POSSIBLE THEY BE GRANTED A MEETING WITH THE ALL-UNION OVIR (EMIGRATION OFFICE) TO DISCUSS THEIR DESIRE TO EMIGRATE.

E. AFTER THEIR DEPARTURE, WE WOULD INFORM THE RESIDENT PRESS THAT IN RESPONSE TO MY REPEATED REQUESTS, BEGINNING UPON THEIR ARRIVAL HERE, THE GROUP HAD COMPLIED AND HAD WALKED OUT OF THE EMBASSY, ACCOMPANIED BY ONE EMBASSY OFFICER WHO SAW THEM TO THE GATE. WE WOULD PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THEY LEAVE, BASED ON THE EMBASSY OFFICER'S OBSERVATIONS. IF QUESTIONED WE WOULD AFFIRM THAT FORCE OR COERCION WERE NOT USED AND THAT THE INDIVIDUALS

WALKED OUT UNDER THEIR OWN POWER.

3. AS SUGGESTED REFTTEL B, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO INCORPORATE INTO THIS SCENARIO A HIGH LEVEL MESSAGE WHICH EXPRESSED SYMPATHY, A PROMISE TO SUPPORT THEIR EMIGRATION EFFORTS ONCE THEY LEAVE, AND ABOVE ALL, AN ORDER TO LEAVE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 20334

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FOR CHRISTOPHER FROM THE AMBASSADOR

4. I HAVE FURTHER CONSIDERED THE OTHER SUGGESTIONS IN REFTTEL B:

A. I DO NOT SEE ANY ADVANTAGE IN MOVING THE GROUP INTO THE SNACK BAR AREA, WHERE THEY WOULD BE EVEN MORE EXPOSED TO LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE. HOWEVER, IF WE MUST PLAN FOR A LONG-TERM STAY WE COULD DEVELOP PLANS FOR MOVING THEM INTO A MORE SECLUDED AREA IN THE CONSULAR SECTION WHEN SPACE IS FREED BY MOVING OUT THE PRESS AND CULTURAL OFFICES NOW THERE, WHICH WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR - A GRIM PROSPECT, INDEED.

B. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL A., I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SEND AN EMISSARY NOR TO ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE THE GROUP TO HOPE FOR EVER GREATER EFFORTS ON THEIR BEHALF FROM ABROAD.

C. IN ADDITION TO MY EARLIER NEGATIVE COMMENTS ABOUT

TRYING TO GET SOMETHING MORE FROM THE SOVIETS, I WOULD
ADD THAT I AM OPPOSED TO ASSURANCES THAT WE WOULD
PREVENT SUCH INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE. NOT ONLY DO I
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BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT COMMIT OURSELVES TO USE FORCE IN
THE FUTURE, BUT I WOULD EXPECT THE SOVIETS SIMPLY TO
ASK WHY, IF WE ARE PREPARED TO USE FORCE, WE DO NOT
USE IT IN THIS CASE. MOREOVER, I ASSUME THAT THE
SOVIETS' OBJECTIVE IS NOT MERELY TO GET US TO TURN OUT
UNWANTED VISITORS BUT TO ACCEPT WILLINGLY THE SERVICES
OF THE SOVIET GUARDS ON THE GATES IN FILTERING VISITORS.
5. I HAVE ALREADY GIVEN YOU MY VIEWS ON THE USE OF
FORCE.

6. AGAINST THE EVENT THAT WE DO NOT USE THE SCENARIO
IN PARA 2, OR WE USE IT AND IT FAILS, WE ARE WORKING
ON OTHER OPTIONS, BUT NONE OF THEM IS VERY PROMISING.

7. SINCE I WILL BE DEPARTING FOR THE U.S. AUGUST 29,
I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CARRY OUT THE SCENARIO IN PARA 2
THIS WEEKEND IF AT ALL. TOON

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